1994 the entire range of bilateral issues including differences related to the Jammu and Kashmir issue, were discussed. The two sides acknowledged that basic divergences exist and reiterated the need to engage in a meaningful dialogue to address outstanding problems. Government, in pursuance of the discussions at the Foreign Secretary level talks, handed over to Pakistan on 24th January, 1994, six concrete proposals aimed at resolving bilateral differences and normalizing relations. Pakistan's formal response to our proposals was received on 19 February, 1994 and is under consideration with the Government.

However, during the period since the Foreign Secretary level talks concluded. Pakistan has indulged in a highly provocative propaganda campaign against India and has stepped up its efforts to internationalise the J&K issue. This has vitiated the climate of relations and has a negative impact on the bilateral process.

Indian offer of Help for Peace in Afghanistan

229. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has offered help for peace in war-torn Afghanistan, backing UN efforts to arrange a cease-fire between the warring factions and for a negotiated settlement of the differences, basically over power sharing between the present President Rabbani on one hand and Hekmatyar Dostum alliance on the other; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Afghanistan Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b) We have always stood for a political settlement in Afghanistan based on the aspirations of the Afghan people and arrived at by the Afghans themselves. Accordingly, India has called upon the international community especially the countries of the region to urgently address the political and security situation in Afghanistan and to undertake a renewed search for peace and stability in that country. We have expressed our willingness to contribute to any such initiative.

According to reports, no peace initiative has made progress in the direction of an enduring settlement. Fighting among the various groups which erupted on January 1, 1994 in continuing.

Agreement between Indian and Chinese Experts over line of Actual Control

230. SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the genesis of the basic agreement reached between Indian and Chinese experts on various issues related to delineation of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) between the two countries at the first meeting of the expert group held in New Delhi early this month; and

(b) the follow-up action being taken in pursuance thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) During the visit of former Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi to China in 1988, both countries established the India-China Joint Working Group (JWG) which was tasked to seek to create a favourable climate and conditions for a fair and reasonable settlement of the boundary question, while seeking a mutually acceptable solution to this question. Discussions in the JWG resulted in the Agreement on Maintenance of Peace and Tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control in the India-China Border Areas, which was signed during Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao's visit to China in September 1993.

(b) In pursuance of the Agreement, the India-China Expert Group was formed in December 1993, to assist the

JWG in its task of implementation of the Agreement. At its first meeting held in New Delhi from February 2-4, 1994 the Expert Group reached basic agreement on issues related to its mandate, future tasks and methodology. The discussions will continue in Beijing in a few months time.

भारत के विरुद्ध पाकिस्तान द्वारा विषैला प्रचार

231. **प्रो० विजय कुमार मलहोत्रा:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि पाकिस्तान विदेशों में भारत के विरुद्ध विषैला प्रचार कर रहा है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो पाकिस्तान के इस दुष्प्रचार का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर० एल० भाटिया): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारत विरोधी दुष्प्रचार का प्रतिकार एक सतत् प्रक्रिया है। सरकार कश्मीर मसले के संबंध में पाकिस्तान के झूठे और निराधार आरोपों का और गलत सूचनाओं का निरन्तर सफलतापूर्वक खण्डन करती रहती है। इन्हीं प्रयासों के एक अंग के रूप में अन्य सरकारों के साथ जल्दी-जल्दी और निरन्तर सम्पर्क साधा जाता है ताकि कश्मीर की स्थिति के बारे में उन्हें सही सूचना दी जा सके। विदेश स्थित अपने मिशनों के माध्यम से राजनीतिज्ञों अधिकारियों, प्रेस और अन्य मत-निर्माताओं को वितरण के लिए मुद्रित और दृश्य-श्रव्य सामग्री तैयार की गई है। भारतीय तथा विदेशी पत्रकारों को भारत में और अपने मिशनों के माध्यम से विदेशों में निरन्तर पक्षसार प्रस्तुत किया जाता है विदेश स्थित मिशनों को नियमित रूप से संगत सूचना भेजी जाती है ताकि लक्षित सभी लोगों तक सही और कारगर सूचना तुरंत पहुंचाई जा सके।

Requirement of Literature and Magazines on Indian Tourism at Indian Diplomatic Missions Abroad

232. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a regular requirement of well published literature and magazines on Indian tourism at the Indian Diplomatic Missions abroad, if so what measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken to meet this requirement;

(b) what are the names of the top tourist magazines published in India, which are supplied to the Indian Diplomatic Mission abroad regularly; and

(c) whether Government would consider to supply to its missions abroad special Indian Magazines which inform the foreign tourists on how to make the best of their visit to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) Yes Sir. On receipt of requests from Indian Missions abroad, Ministry of External Affairs obtains tourist literature, pamphlets, posters, etc. from the Department of Tourism, and forwards the same to the Missions.

(b) The tourism literature forwarded comprises of material sent by Department of Tourism which so far does not include any magazine.

(c) It is for the Department of Tourism and Tourist Offices located abroad to consider the proposal, which is positive and would be supported by us.